

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-24 and add new claim 25 as follows:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
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22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (new) A method of retrieving a record from a compressed database, the database having been compressed by storing information regarding distinct values of an attribute and information regarding the number of occurrences of distinct values; the method comprising the steps of:

- a. retrieving information regarding the number of occurrences of a given value;
- b. determining an instance element based on information regarding the number of occurrences of the given value;
- c. determining a connectivity element based on the instance element; and
- d. determining a record from the connectivity element.